

## Will gov't force same sex marriage on seminaries?

**WASHINGTON (BP and local reports)** — An exchange between U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel Alito and the U.S. Solicitor General during April 28 oral arguments on legalizing same sex marriage has led to alarm among Southern Baptist seminary leaders.

In response to Solicitor General Donald Verrilli's argument on behalf of the federal government that same sex marriage should be declared a constitutional right, Alito asked Verrilli about institutions that refuse to permit same sex marriage, citing a 1983 decision

in which the Supreme Court upheld the Internal Revenue Service's revocation of a tax exemption for Bob Jones University, a fundamentalist Christian school in Greenville, S.C.

The court "held that a college was not entitled to tax-exempt status if it opposed interracial marriage or interracial dating," Alito said, "so would the same apply to a university or a college if it opposed same sex marriage?"

Verrilli responded, "You know, I don't think I can answer that question without knowing more specifics, but it's certainly going to be an issue. I don't deny that. I don't deny that, Justice Alito. It is going to be an issue."

Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary, said after reading reports of the exchange that the seminary will stand firm in its support of biblical marriage regardless of any legal challenges.

"New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary affirms without reservation the biblical teachings on marriage and sexual morality," Kelley told Baptist Press in written comments. "Marriage is between a man and a woman. Any sexual relationship outside the bonds of biblical marriage is wrong before God."

"All members of the NOBTS family are always responsible for upholding these biblical values. We anticipate no change in our



ALITO



VERRILLI



KELLEY

see MARRIAGE on p. 6

## Annual meeting app now available

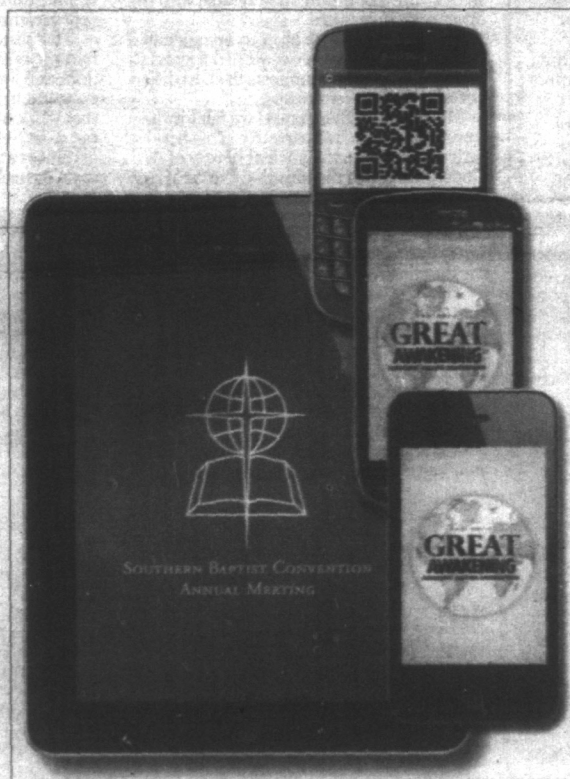
**COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)** — Messengers to the 2015 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 16-17 in Columbus, Oh., can stay informed through a free smartphone app featuring schedules, maps, alerts, speakers, newsfeeds, the Book of Reports, the Daily Bulletin, and much more.

The app will be available for iPhone, iPad, and Android users and can be downloaded by typing "SBC Annual Meetings" in the device's app store. Once the app is downloaded, it will prompt you to install the information for the 2015 meeting.

This year's preferred Twitter hashtag will be #sbc15. Messengers also can follow @SBCMeeting, @BaptistPress, @SBCLife, @sbccp, and @SBCPastorsconf for the latest annual meeting updates.

Developed by Core-Apps, the app will include:

- Push alerts of up-to-date news, such as any changes in the meeting schedule;
- The programs for the SBC Pastors' Conference and the annual meeting;
- An alphabetized list of Pastors' Conference and annual meeting speakers, including their scheduled speaking times;
- A newsfeed of Baptist Press news stories and photos



covering Crossover, the SBC annual meeting, and related meetings that take place during the week.

■ PDF versions of the Book of Reports, the Daily Bulletin, and SBC LIFE;

■ Scheduled times for seminary luncheons and other affinity groups ancillary to the annual meeting;

■ Twitter stream discussions about the annual meeting. Use the hashtag #sbc15 to join the conversation;

■ An interactive map of the

exhibit hall and messenger-friendly local restaurants;

■ A list of exhibitors, including contact information for each exhibitor and the exhibitor's floor location;

■ A list of Metro Columbus Association churches and church-type missions, with a map showing where each congregation is located, and

■ A "friends" icon where users can keep up to date with their friends and send them notes. (Users are required to fill out a brief profile.)

## Iranian authorities threaten Abedini with extended time

**ISTANBUL, Turkey (BP)** — Iranian authorities heightened pressure on U.S.-Iranian pastor Saeed Abedini in April, threatening to keep him in prison indefinitely, Morning Star News reported May 1.

Authorities seem to be taking a "carrot-and-stick" approach to Abedini — leveling new, petty charges while promising him freedom if he abandons his faith in Christ and returns to Islam, Tiffany Barrans, international director at the American Center for Law and Justice, told Morning Star, a news service focusing on the persecuted church.

"They have said, 'Don't think you'll get out after eight years. We'll add additional reasons to keep you,'" Barrans said. "That's the kind of threat in conjunction with an uptick of 'If you recant, if you return to Islam, we will let you go.' That's not anything new, but it's a very concentrated, intense time in the prison at present."

The psychological weight of new charges against other Christians "certainly has been taking its toll, because Saeed has seen it come to reality for so many others," Barrans said.

In Gohardasht Prison, also known as Rajai-Shahr, pastor Farshid Fathi could face an additional two-year sentence after a imam overseeing one of the prison's wards accused Fathi of insulting him. The imam filed the complaint after Fathi and other



ABEDINI

prisoners defied his order for all Bibles in the prison ward to be inspected, the Iranian/Christian news service Mohabat News reported in March, with Morning Star noting that the imam did not have the legal authority to order the inspection.

On Dec. 29 of last year, Fathi was sentenced to an additional year in

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Loose lips at Supreme Court

Not too long ago I encountered an appellate-level judge at a social event. In an effort to make light conversation, I brought up a prominent legal case that was in the news at the time. The judge politely declined to discuss it with me. "I can't talk about cases that could possibly come before my court at some point in the future," he informed me. I told him that I understood.

I understood, and I was impressed. Impressed with a level of integrity that indicated to me the judge believed in and deeply respected the sanctity of our court system. Impressed that he didn't seem to mind taking the risk of offending someone he had just met who had innocently brought up an inappropriate subject. Impressed that he chose to address my gaffe without humiliating me, as he surely could have done. Impressed with the knowledge that he must have encountered similar situations hundreds — if not thousands — of times in his judicial career, and handled each one the same way.

It was on that encounter with the judge that I base my disappointment with U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's recent public comments on an eminently important case that is right now before her court.

In an April 27 article entitled, "As arguments near, Justice Ginsburg has already made up her mind on gay marriage," on [yahoo.com/politics](http://yahoo.com/politics), senior national affairs reporter Liz Goodwin opens with this lead paragraph:

*Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the 82-year-old leader of the Supreme Court's minority liberal wing, has cast aside her usual restraint in the past months and left little doubt where she stands on the upcoming gay marriage case.*

Actually, there's been little doubt for quite some time. Ginsburg, who was nominated to the high court by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1993, last year became the first U.S. Supreme Court justice to officiate at a same sex marriage ceremony, albeit in a location of the country where same sex marriage is already legal.

"Since then, she's highlighted the big shift in public opinion on gay marriage in interviews and public speeches, breaking from

her usual reticence when it comes to talking about upcoming cases," Goodwin wrote in her [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com) piece. "In February, Ginsburg told Bloomberg that it 'would not take a large adjustment' for Americans to accept nationwide marriage equality, given the 'enormous' change in people's attitudes about same-sex marriage. New York Times columnist Gail Collins wrote in January that Ginsburg has a 'strong hunch' about the way the case will turn out. 'I would be very surprised if the Supreme Court retreats from what it has said about same-sex unions,' Ginsburg told Collins, referencing the 2012 decision that found the federal government must recognize same-sex marriages."

Those comments by Ginsburg, former general counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union, may seem mild by the coarse standards of modern public discourse, but they are inarguably huge on the level of the U.S. Supreme Court. Ginsburg, and her eight fellow justices, were supposed to be unbiased going into the April 28 oral arguments involving a case that could determine the future of marriage in this country.

Goodwin points out in her article that other justices have recused themselves when they have overstepped what they perceived to be the limits of what they can say in public about cases. Ginsburg has expressed no such sentiment.

"She's not going to recuse herself," Goodwin quotes Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the law school at the University of California-Irvine as saying — and he's most likely going to be right. "We're just in an era where some of the justices are speaking more publicly than ever before," Chemerinsky adds.

That doesn't make it right. Most of us were taught, both at home and in school, that the rule of law as administered through the American legal system is one of the foundational concepts that separates us from countries subject to the whims of dictators and totalitarians. Most of us were also taught that we should expect that system to be thoroughly unbiased and capable of rendering justice.

Ginsburg's conduct shakes those ideas to the core. However the Supreme Court ultimately rules on same sex marriage, that's the bottom line.

## Created male and female

In the 1970s, Bruce Jenner seemed to have it all — fame, wealth, admiration. He was an Olympic star so popular in American culture that he was reputedly considered for the roles of both Superman and James Bond. Now, Jenner is best known as the stepfather on reality television's *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*.

Jenner is ready for one more change. He says he knows what he's been missing: his identity as a woman. Jenner has reportedly undergone surgery to make himself appear more like a woman and has been photographed wearing dresses. Now, in a highly publicized interview with Diane Sawyer, he says that his "whole life has been leading up to this."

Bruce Jenner, of course, is a symbol, a celebrity spokesperson for an entire mentality that sees gender as separate from biological identity. So is there a word from God to the transgender community? How should the church address the Bruce Jenner in your neighborhood who doesn't have the star power or the Malibu mansions but who does have the same alienation of self?

First of all, we should avoid the temptation to laugh at these suffering souls. We do not see our transgendered neighbors as freaks to be despised. They feel alienated from their identities as men or women and are seeking a solution in self-display or in surgery or in pumping their bodies with the other sex's hormones.

In a fallen universe all of us are alienated in some way from who we were designed to be. That alienation manifests itself in different ways in different people.

However, neither should we fall for the transgender cultural narrative. This narrative is rooted in the ancient heresy of Gnosticism, with the idea that the "real" self is separate from who one is as an embodied, material being. Body parts and chromosomal patterns are seen as dispensable since the self is radically disconnected from the body, the psychic from the material.

The old Gnostic heresy is joined with contemporary expressive individualism — the idea that I must be true to whomever I perceive my "real me" to be on the inside in order to be "authentic." This is what leads some parents, in other news of recent, to "transition" the gender identity of their child at ages as early as age four.

It is somewhat ironic that Jenner's interview came in the same week as Earth Day.



### Guest opinion

with Russell Moore

Earth Day, of course, reminds us that human desires and human technologies ought to have limits. Just because a corporation has the technological power to raze a forest or level a mountain or dump toxins into a water system is no sign that one should do so. The common good means human beings learning to live in balance and harmony with nature, not with a rapacious domination of it.

What is true of natural ecology is true of human ecology as well. Techno-utopian scientism tells us that we can transcend our limits, to become as gods. For some, that manifests itself in believing that humanity can pollute its own ecosystem with impunity. For others it manifests itself in believing that they can transcend the boundaries of the male/female polarity.

A biblical view of our place in the universe is quite different. We are not machines, to be reprogrammed at will. We are creatures.

That vision includes a respect for God's natural, creative order that reflects His wisdom and lordship over the world. Our maleness and femaleness is very much part of that wisdom and lordship. We are born not out of self-effort but in the pure providence of our Creator. Our given gender points us to an even deeper reality — to the unity and complementarity of Christ and the church.

A rejection of the goodness of those creational realities, then, is a revolt against God's lordship and against the picture of the Gospel that God has embedded in the creation.

The hope for Bruce Jenner, and for others like him, is not to alter the body with surgery or to flood their systems with hormones. The answer is to realize that all of us are born alienated from what we were created to be. We don't need to fix what

see MOORE on p. 7

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# Nepal on minds of conference goers seeking to save lost

**PLANO, Texas (BP and local reports)** — As the world watches the escalating devastation in Nepal, more than 40 International Mission Board (IMB) workers from South Asia gathered April 26-28 at Prestonwood Church in Plano, Texas, for a conference encouraging 140 churches to make commitments to reach the nations.

Conference attendees prayed for those impacted by the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck Nepal April 25. More than 5,000 deaths have been reported from the quake and aftershock that were felt in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Tibet.

A strategy leader, whose work includes Nepal, shared his mixed emotions about being in Texas instead of working beside his friends in the devastated country. "I don't know about the Lord's timing. I'd rather be there today," he said, but he also acknowledged the opportunity to advocate for the people he loves and asked U.S. churches to enter significant partnerships on behalf of South Asians.

"It's no coincidence that a number of us are gathered here in one place," he said. "In a way, it's almost like God is clashing the cymbals and banging the gongs to say, 'This is it.' As we consider the ends of the earth, it is a strategic moment in Nepal.

"It's hard not to focus on the loss of life in Nepal, but the potential of what comes next is really exciting. Southern Baptists have been praying for generations to reach the lost. They've prayed, 'Lord, shake the nations, Lord, do something that causes and breaks hearts open to look to you.' Now is the time."

Don Gann, Men's Ministry Director for the Mississippi

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## IMB strategy leader

Baptist Convention Board and lead coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief program, said trained volunteers across the state are awaiting word from Baptist Global Response, which partners with the Southern Baptist Convention and state Baptist conventions to coordinate disaster relief responses.

"Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has a long-term focus. Needs of those affected are both immediate and long-term. We do not self-deploy, but seek to be a part of the coordinated effort to bring Help, Healing, and Hope to those affected," Gann said.

For up-to-date information from Baptist Global Response, visit the website [gobgr.org](http://gobgr.org). Those who have been trained and qualified for disaster relief and are interested in being mobilized should Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief be asked to send teams, Gann can be contacted at [dgann@mbcb.org](mailto:dgann@mbcb.org).

During a time of prayer for Nepal at the opening session of the Prestonwood conference, the worker reminded the crowd



**ALL DOWN** — Many buildings around Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, were reduced to rubble during the 7.8-magnitude (Richter Scale) earthquake that struck April 25 in the mountainous Asian country. Baptist Global Relief, which handles international disaster relief for the Southern Baptist Convention and its state partners, is conducting needs assessments in Nepal in order to plan a relief effort. (BP photo used with permission)

of nearly 400 participants that Hindu temples and man-made buildings crumbled. "But we worship a God whose throne was not shaken."

He asked believers in the U.S. to pray the Nepali church will "find its voice" and set themselves apart as people who meet the needs caused by the devastating earthquake in a way that will make history.

"And they will, it's almost inevitable, because we know the Word and the Holy Spirit have been invested," he said, referring to Southern Baptists' work in Nepal for decades.

"Pray for boldness," he said. "Pray for clear presentation of motives that as the Nepali

church responds, that everyone would know it's because something's different about these people. It's not just the cultural hospitality. This is some other motive of love ... that's compelling the Nepali Christian church to respond."

In Plano, churches and missions organizations from 23 states gathered for the three-day event to join together in reaching South Asia, an area that includes India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives, with the Gospel. Workers estimate 1.6 billion people live in this part of the world, and most have never heard the name of Jesus.

## Prayer

- Pray Christians and churches will be the salt that seasons and the light that pierces the darkness around them in this time of crisis.
- Pray God will open unprecedented doors for the Gospel in these coming days, as personnel and teams have opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through acts of compassion and mercy.
- Pray for a great spiritual harvest.

## Missions directors to gather before SBC annual meet

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)** — The Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL) will work to encourage, inspire, and equip its members in kingdom work at its June 14 - 15 meeting in Columbus, Oh., immediately prior to the start of the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the same city.

The SBCAL will retain its 2014 theme of Ready Churches, Ready Harvest, based on Matthew 9:37. The theme is designed to complement the SBC

theme of Great Awakening: Clear Agreement, Visible Union, Extraordinary Prayer, and its prayer emphasis, said Johnny Rumbough, conference team leader and executive director of missions for the Lexington Association in South Carolina.

Associational leaders will enjoy worship, sermons, educational breakout sessions, and fellowship June 14 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and June 15 from 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. at the Downtown Hilton. Frank S. Page, president of the SBC Executive

Committee, will address associational leaders Sunday, July 15, at 3:45 p.m., with special greetings from O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Resources.

Ken Weathersby, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention advancement, will preach during 10 a.m. Sunday worship; Gerald Roe, a Christian Studies professor at North Greenville University (NGU) in Tigerville, S.C., will speak during the Sunday general session at 1 p.m.

Monday's speakers will include Southern Baptist Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. at 8:30 a.m., and Ken Hemphill, NGU director of the Center for Church Planting and Revitalization, during the 11:15 a.m. general session.

Breakout sessions scheduled concurrently both days will focus on DisciplePath, a new study from LifeWay Christian Resources; Missionsfest, a partnership of the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary of the SBC; bivocational ministry, and conflict management.

Registration is \$99 through June 11 at [registerohio2015.org](http://registerohio2015.org), with free registration for spouses. On-site registration will be \$125 beginning June 14.

In advance of its Columbus meeting, the SBCAL is conducting a Week of Prayer & Mission Emphasis May 17-24. Free resources, including bulletin covers, prayer cards, posters, and a sermon series, are available for download at [2015ame.basicshift.com](http://2015ame.basicshift.com), through a partnership with the North American Mission Board.

Here at Mother's Day week let me take you back to just before Easter. A precious baby girl was born into this big ole world. Mama and dad and the new baby were all well and all the family was rejoicing. They named her MaryLea and soon I received word from the grandpa in a text that came along with a picture: the obligatory child wrapped up in a blanket with only her head sticking out. Obviously, she was beautiful. Attached to the text was also the vital statistics. She weighs 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20" long. That is what the grandpa reported. My first thought upon reading those numbers was to get in touch with the Guinness Book people for surely this has to be some sort of record. Upon further reflection since I did not have the Guinness folks in my speed dial, I realized this may be an error and I thought probably Granddad should not be allowed to send texts or maybe to even have a cell phone. But as I processed all the information, I thought maybe this was what the Bible was talking about when it said there were giants in the land. As time moved on I got it all straightened out and discovered that she was 20" long, but then upon further contemplation, I realized that this new baby child, MaryLea, indeed is a giant in the land.

The reason I say that is because I have seen it over and over again as one generation follows another and we get to rejoice in the renewal and hopefulness of life with the birth of a little child. Just think about it. **This child is a giant of possibilities.** On average there are about 250,000 deaths each day worldwide. That is astounding, but on the other side of that stat is the wonderful reality that there are more



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## There Are Giants in the Land

births than deaths on average each day. And one after another after another little boys and little girls come into their homes just as God said, that they are gifts. Each of them is loaded with immense possibilities. While you and I may just see them as small little human beings, they each are packages of unlimited possibilities. Can you imagine the limited thoughts that people had when they discovered a basket set out there on the water's edge in Egypt? That inside there was a little baby? They would name him Moses and that little child would shape not only the destiny of a family but a nation and set standards for the world because God used him. What possibilities exist over and over for young moms and dads and communities that welcome the wonder of a new child! They are giants in the land.

**But along with giant possibilities, there are also giant problems.** There are giants in the land and it is

impossible to know the kinds of problems they will face. I think about the incredible shifts in life's landscape in my lifetime, the changes and challenges that have come with world powers rising and falling, the struggles that we all have faced and sometimes floundered through in adapting to technology and media technology. I think about the moral differences that have occurred over the last several generations as we wrestle with the awkwardness of things that we once revered being held in contempt and disdain and some things that we clearly understood as evil or detrimental that have now been elevated to places of prominence and praise. I think of the changes in language and the vulgarity that is heard in every realm of life it seems, and beyond just foul language I think about the way people speak to each other with such crass and mean-spirited language and think nothing about it. Well, suffice it to say, there

will be giants in the land that we haven't even considered. Huge problems that must be confronted.

**But there are giants in the land that will enable us and strengthen us and help us, for they are the giant promises that God has given us.** One of the things I know about this little girl and all of the little girls and boys that are being born is that God has an eternal investment in them and He wants them to know He loves them. He wants each of them to know that He will be with them in whatever they face. He wants them to know He will never leave them nor forsake them. The giant promises that our God gives us span the ages and are always trustworthy.

Through the years I often have just walked through the preschool and the children's area of our church just to look into a room and see wonderful teachers making a difference in boys and girls and sharing with them the great promises of God. Our society places a lot of emphasis, and rightly so, on having good education and providing good health care for people all along the journey of life and helping prepare them for life to be good citizens, productive and contributing to the needs of family or society, but nothing, absolutely nothing, is more important than taking the time and making the investment to share with our children the giant promises of God. They will make the difference in a person's life not only right here and now, but those promises can affect eternity. Thanks be to God there are giant promises in the land.

The author can be contacted at [directions@mbcb.org](mailto:directions@mbcb.org).

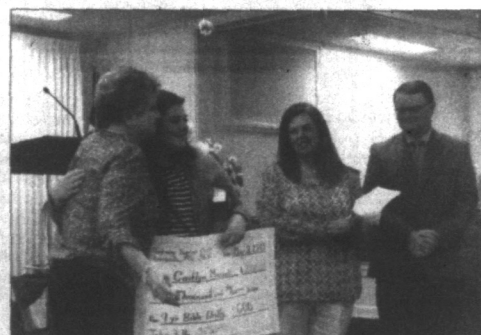
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Diana Saucier, **PARKWAY CHURCH, HERNANDO,** presented Caitlyn Marshall a \$2000 scholarship for being the first nine year driller at the church. She plans to attend Blue Mountain College in the fall. Shown are Saucier, Caitlyn, and her parents Cindy and pastor Tom Marshall.



**FIRST CHURCH, OLOH, SUMRALL,** recognizes its Bible drillers.



**BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR,** recognizes its Bible drillers.



**GRIFFITH MEMORIAL CHURCH, JACKSON,** recognizes its Bible drillers.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 7, 2015

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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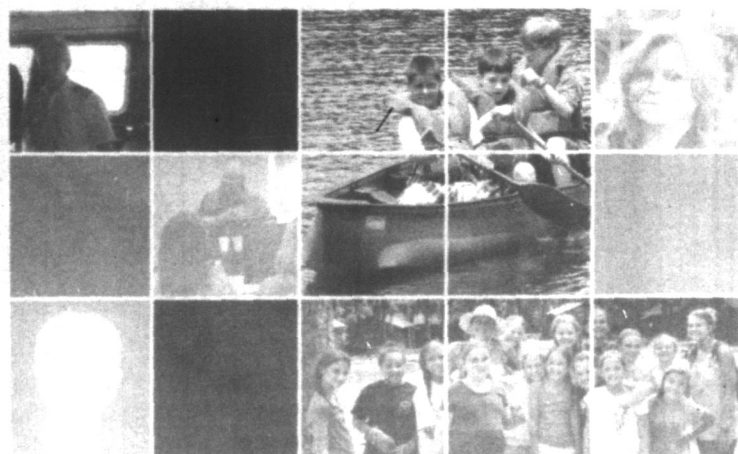
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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2015  
Wade Baptist Church, Moss Point - 6:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015  
Hancock County Jail - 9:45 A.M.  
New Heights Baptist Church, Summit - 6:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015  
First Baptist Church, Greenwood - Noon  
CrossPoint - A Southern Baptist Church, Starkville - 6:00 P.M.  
Concert at the Starkville Sportsplex

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015  
Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus - 10:15 A.M.  
Belden Baptist Church, Belden - 5:00 P.M.

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015  
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Sponsored by the Church Music Department  
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TOUR DATES:  
JUNE 10-15, 2015

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MISSISSIPPI WMU

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**August 21-22**  
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with WMU Annual Meeting (AMC)  
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center  
Clinton, MS

For more information contact the MS WMU office at the  
MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 323.

## 2015 Professional Training Course & Skillshops for Ministry Assistants

**AUGUST 11-13, 2015**  
GARAYWA CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Please register by July 24, 2015.  
There will be a \$5 late fee after July 24, 2015.

### TO REGISTER:

Complete the forms and mail with your check to the  
Pastor/Leadership Development Department,  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530.

### FOR QUESTIONS AND PRICING

Contact Cathy Taylor, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or 292-3305 or E-mail:  
[cwtaylor@mbcb.org](mailto:cwtaylor@mbcb.org)

## 2015 STATE SENIOR RALLY THURSDAY, AUGUST 27 CROSSGATES BC, BRANDON [\$1 AT THE DOOR]

8:30 a.m. Registration/Refreshments  
9:00 Rally: Jenny Nolen, Purvis  
10:00 Break  
(Refreshments furnished by MS Baptist Foundation)  
10:45 **BREAK-OUTS**  
1. "Fun Time with Jim Burke"  
2. "Ways to Disciple Older People"  
3. Leadership:  
"Does one size fix all ministries for the aging?"

For more information contact the Discipleship/Family  
Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at 601-292-3284.



# GROWING CHURCHES<sup>15</sup>

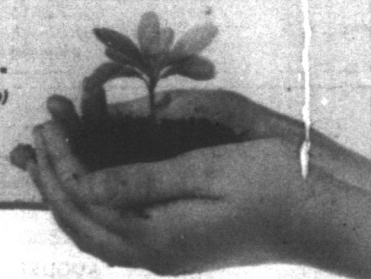
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## Growing Churches Conference

Friday and Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Harrisburg Baptist Church  
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd  
Tupelo, MS 38301

"...for the training of the saints  
in the work of the ministry,  
to build up the body of Christ..."  
Ephesians 4:12 (hccb)



For more information, please call the Lee County Baptist Association  
862.566.1700 or log on to [www.growingchurches.info](http://www.growingchurches.info)  
OR  
contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. of the MBCB at  
800-748-1651, Ext. 283, or 601-292-3283



## GOING DEEPER

State Literacy Missions Conference

July 31—Aug. 1, 2015

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton

9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

February 7, 2015

Central

Brandon Baptist Church, Brandon

February 21, 2015

North/South

FBC, Tupelo/Marion BA, Columbia

For more information contact the WMU at 800-748-1651,  
Ext. 215, or 601-292-3215.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

# DINNER

THURSDAY | MAY 14 | 6:30 P.M.

*First Baptist Church, Jackson*

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DR. FUTRAL, SPEAKER

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For more information contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion  
Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 347.



**2 Locations:**

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Blue Mountain College • July 21-25

**Registration begins February 2, 2015**

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**\$90 (\$35 reg. fee) commuter fee:**  
includes t-shirt, music, and meals

For more information and registration  
contact the Church Music Dept. of the  
MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 267  
or 601-292-3267.

Pray this day for...

May 8 - 21, 2015

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)*

Pray for: **Steven & Nickolee Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Steven & Ruth Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **C. & Marleen Robinson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Deborah Royals**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through regional office support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bill & Susan Sanson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through chaplaincy, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jonathan & Bethany Sharp**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting & community outreach.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Janna Smith**, missionary ministering to American Peoples/Mexico through church planting.

Pray for: **Thomas Smith**, missionary ministering to American Peoples/Peru through regional office support.

Pray for: **Clay & Jeri Stegall**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Jeanette Taylor**, missionary ministering to Southeast Asian Peoples through regional support.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

# Senior Day RETREAT 2015

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015 • 601-226-5316

Salem Heights Baptist Church, Laurel  
Thursday, May 21, 2015 • 601-763-7571

First Baptist Church, Natchez  
Tuesday, May 26, 2015 • 601-442-1464

For more information contact the  
Discipleship/Family Ministry Department  
of the MBCB at  
800-748-1651, Ext. 284, or 601-292-3284

Mr. Luke  
7/4/11  
Parents: D & L  
Restricted

Miss Kylie  
7/9/09  
Parents: D & MB  
Restricted

Miss Natalia N  
7/10/07  
Parents: Kieth & Susan  
Restricted

Miss Josie M  
7/13/10  
Parents: C & A  
Restricted

Miss Christina  
7/17/61  
Parents: Brad & Lenora  
Last Frontier

Miss Abigail  
7/17/99  
Parents: D & K  
European Peoples

Mr. Benjamin Worthy  
7/18/08  
Parents: Charlie &  
Shannon  
European Peoples

Mr. Joshua  
7/26/96  
Parents: J & P  
Restricted

Miss Zoe  
7/30/00  
Parents: CJ & J  
Restricted

## Encourage an MK with a card!

**FOR SECURITY**, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to:  
MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



WORLDWIDE  
BAPTISTS

# HOUSE TOPS



## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Midway Church, Jackson:** Final homecoming prior to church closing, May 17; service, 10:15 a.m., with special recognitions, followed by covered dish lunch; Anthony Kay, pastor.

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**VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH IN MATHISTON, MS, IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR EITHER A BI-VOCATIONAL OR A FULL-TIME PASTOR.** Please send resumes to: Victory Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 12, Mathiston, Ms.

**ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, A SMALL RURAL CHURCH IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR.** Please send resumes to: Neosha McGuffee 217 Pennington-McGuffee Rd, Monticello, MS 39564.

**ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ENTERPRISE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME STUDENT MINISTER.** Job description available upon request. Please send resumes to: Attn: Student Minister Search Committee, Enterprise Baptist Church, PO Box 186, Enterprise, MS 39330, or email to [jsimpson241@gmail.com](mailto:jsimpson241@gmail.com)

**ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Send resumes to: 2604 Carrollton Rd, Grenada, Ms. 38901 or email- [enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com](mailto:enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com) or call- (662)228-0778.

**STANDING PINE BAPTIST CHURCH, LEAKE COUNTY, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR.** Please send resumes to: Ronnie Shepard at P.O. Box 558, Carthage, MS 39051.

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, GREENWOOD IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR.** Please send resumes to: Calvary Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 4644 Billy Stone Rd (CR 171), Greenwood, MS 38930.

**NEEDED: FULL TIME OR BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN AT ASHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH IN ASHLAND, MS.** Send resumes to: Mr. Stanley Poff, 285 Carter Flats, Ashland, MS 38603 or email to [stanleypoff@yahoo.com](mailto:stanleypoff@yahoo.com)

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED AT NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS.** Please send resumes to: Youth Minister Search Comm. 629 Forest Trail Brookhaven, Ms. 39601

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**NEW SEARCH, NEW COMMITTEE. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT RINGGOLD, LOUISIANA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR.** Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 566, Ringgold, La 71068. Resumes received between now and May 15, 2015 will be considered. Please pray for our Church and our Committee.

**GATLINBURG RENTALS:** Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: [pdw4760@att.net](mailto:pdw4760@att.net) for information and booking.

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# As many as 500 stolen girls recovered in Nigeria

**BORNO, Nigeria (BP)** — The Nigerian military rescued a second set of female captives April 29 from the Sambisa Forest stronghold of Islamic extremist group Boko Haram in northeastern Borno state, just one day after securing more than 200 girls and 93 women from the same area, the Associated Press reported.

About 220 teenage Chibok school girls missing for more than a year are not believed to be among those secured, but the identities of all of the females recovered are still being determined, Nigeria military officials said in news reports.

Officials have not disclosed the number of women and girls included in the second set of captives freed, but those rescued have been evacuated to a safety zone for further screening, Col. Sani Usman told the AP.

In a separate news report, the French news agency AFP numbered the two groups of freed women and girls at nearly 500. "Whoever they may be, the important thing is that Nigerians held captive under very severe and inhuman conditions have been freed by our gallant troops," the AFP quoted defense spokesman Chris Olukolade.

Those rescued are said to be traumatized and in need of intensive psychological treatment. Some have been so indoctrinated in Boko Haram ideology, that the females opened fire on soldiers trying to free them, and others may have become emotionally attached to militants they were forced to marry, the AP reported.

In the latest rescue, several people were killed including a Nigerian soldier and a woman. At least eight women were shot and four soldiers were seriously



injured. The Nigerian military will continue to "comprehensively" clean out the Sambisa Forest where Boko Haram is believed to maintain several camps, military officials said.

"There is great hope for the recovery of more hostages of the terrorists," the AFP quoted Olukolade.

Boko Haram has suffered losses, but has also recaptured some towns in northeastern Nigeria since the nation's presidential elections a month ago. Newly elected president Muhammadu Buhari, a Muslim who identifies as a Democrat, takes office May 29.

Buhari has vowed to defeat Boko Haram and gain freedom for the 219 Chibok school girls still missing since the militants kidnapped nearly 300 students and destroyed their boarding school April 15, 2014. Most of the girls have not been recovered. More

than 70 have managed to escape without military assistance.

The kidnapping mobilized the international community in searching for the girls and spread public interest under the #Bring-Back-Our-Girls campaign. Since the beginning of 2014, Boko Haram has kidnapped at least 2,000 women and girls from their families, Amnesty International has estimated. Boko Haram had pledged to imprison some of them as sex slaves, and officials believe many of those captured may have been used as suicide bombers or human shields, according to news reports.

Boko Haram militants are blamed for killing 15,000 or more Christians and moderate Muslims since 2009, and leaving more than 1.5 million homeless. Boko Haram has pledged allegiance to the self-proclaimed Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

## B I B L I O C I P H E R

GVH YAT BHMIT VG BVR YAMY

DHLFBTYA EMWQMYLVF AMYA

MXXTMHTR YV MWW KTF.

YLYOE YNV:TWTQTF

Clue: Q = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 4:41

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

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## MARRIAGE

cont. from p. 1

policies or standards, and we will deal with any legal challenges to them as necessary."

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., noted that an exchange between Chief Justice John Roberts and Verrilli also referenced religious schools. When Roberts asked, "Would a religious school that has married housing be required to afford such housing to same-sex couples?" Verrilli "did not say no," Mohler observed.

"The Chief Justice asked the unavoidable question when he

asked specifically about campus housing," Mohler wrote in a blog post. "If a school cannot define its housing policies on the basis of its religious beliefs, then it is denied the ability to operate on the basis of those beliefs."

"The 'big three' issues for religious schools are the freedoms to maintain admission, hiring, and student services on the basis of religious conviction. By asking about student housing, the Chief Justice asked one of the most practical questions involved in student services. The same principles would apply to the admission of students and the hiring of faculty. All three are now directly threatened," Mohler wrote.

Todd Linn, chairman of the board of Southeastern Seminary

in Wake Forest, N.C., told Baptist Press the "prospect of legalizing gay marriage across the nation raises a host of questions and concerns for religious institutions and conservative evangelical seminaries such as SEBTS."

Verrilli "opened the door to a number of other possible concerns. One can only imagine how legalizing same sex marriage might also affect religious freedoms relating to admissions or hiring and firing."

"While many aspects of this issue remain unclear at the present, the seminary will be closely following all court cases and legislation that may impact the institution," said Linn, pastor of First Church in Henderson, Ky.



MOHLER



ROBERTS



LINN

## Casting Crowns in Concert

July 18 7:00 p.m.

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## ABEDINI

cont. from p. 1

prison after authorities accused him of having alcohol — communion wine — in prison. He has appealed the decision. Last October, Iranian authorities sentenced three pastors, Behnam Irani, Abdolreza Ali-Haghejad, and Reza Rabbani of the Church of Iran to six years in prison for "actions against national security" and "creating a network to overthrow the system," catch-all terms the Islamist government uses to suppress Christians and political opponents it perceives as threats.

Originally authorities charged the men with "Mofsed-fel-arz" or "spreading corruption on Earth," a charge that can carry the death penalty.

Barrans said pressure on Abedini comes and goes in waves,

with the current round of ill treatment likely related to international efforts to limit Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons.

Barrans said that if the U.S. government "leaves the table without getting Abedini's freedom, it makes things much more difficult to get his release."

September marks Abedini's third year in prison. According to Iranian law, most criminal offenders can apply for clemency or parole when they have served one-third of their sentences. Barrans said Abedini's family is in the process of applying for that.

So far, their efforts for clemency have met with no results.

This story first appeared at Morning Star News (MorningStarNews.org), a California-based independent news service focusing on persecution of Christians worldwide. Morning Star permits all media to utilize its reports.

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## Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## Seek Him First • Haggai 1:1-11, 2:5-9

What gives you the absolutely greatest satisfaction in life? Do you LOVE your work?

Is there a hobby that occupies your every free minute? What about sports? Are you a FANatic?

Haggai's ministry was short but he was asking similar questions, yet his questions related to personal financial priorities and personal spiritual priorities. He got very personal as we shall quickly see when we read this two chapter book. He wastes no time getting right to the point.

### Reality Defined (Haggai 1:1-9)

*"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" (Haggai 1:4 NKJV)*

Haggai's word from the Lord was regarding the Temple that had begun to be rebuilt 20 years earlier when the foundation was laid. But, the people lost their enthusiasm for the Temple and gained enthusiasm for rebuilding their own lives after coming back to Jerusalem from exile. Now they say "The time has not come that the Lord's house should be built." v. 2

That did not sit well with the Lord or his prophet and chastisement was quick. Then the Lord says, "Consider your ways" (v.5). Essentially God says, "You are working hard but seeing very little gain,

you even have holes in your money bags!" v. 6 He tells them to reconsider their lifestyles. He tells them they have little because what you bring home, "I blew it away, because My house is in ruins while you run your own houses." v. 9 He tells them their priorities are out of focus.

### Discipline Defined (Haggai 1:10-11)

*"Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth with-*

*holds its fruit..." (Haggai 1:10)*

Haggai states the reason for their crop failure and water shortage... God is disciplining them!

This is not true of every natural disaster, but it was in this case. When we think we know better than God what we should do with what we have, God may let circumstances take place to prove His point. God really wants to bless His children, but when we do not cooperate with His plans, we block the opportunity of His blessings!



### Explore the Bible

with Kiely D. Young

### Glory to Come (Haggai 2:5-9)

*"The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former." Says the Lord of Hosts. (Haggai 2:9 NKJV)*

God is about to literally shake them up. God told them He will shake heaven and earth, the sea and the dry land. He will shake the nations, even the desire of all nations to fill His Temple with His glory. He says all the silver and all the gold is His. He owns everything!

Then, God reveals He will bring peace to His Temple. The Lord of Hosts declares His glory to be revealed.

God was telling them He was about to shake the foundations of their lives and bring a renewal through His glory. The new glory in this temple would far exceed even the glory of Solomon's Temple. If you recall when the Temple of Solomon was dedicated "the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud: for the glory

of the Lord filled the house of God." (2 Chronicles 5:14-15)

Now God is telling His people the glory filling this temple would EXCEED the glory filling the former temple. That is a powerful statement!

Why would this take place? The people met the conditions of God's presence. In Haggai 1:14 "So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God." The people did the work and God provided the resources. God got the glory.

It is amazing what God can do through His people when they get in tune with Him. It will cause the people around them to be amazed.

God wants His people to obey, follow His plan, and fulfill His Commission. Our world would be transformed and God would get the glory! Amen.

What can you do this week to fulfill God's plan through your life for His glory?

Young is retired Sunday School Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a member of Ridgcrest Church, Madison.

## Stick with Forgiveness • Matthew 18: 21-28, 32-33

Big little words in Scripture — the very words that we seem to skim over conveniently — or skip — completely — should capture and absorb our attention. My two favorite big little words are "I" and "Am," especially when they are spoken together from the mouth of The Only One Who truly qualifies to declare them. There is that three-letter conjunctive word "but" which always acts as a connecting hinge. The word "but" signals the reader to expect contrasting results from the previous sentence, paragraph or section. Romans 6:23 reads, "For the wages of sin is death BUT the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." That "but" heralds a joyful relief. Isaiah 30:15 reads, "For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, 'In repentance and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength, BUT you were not willing.'" That "but" delivers a weighty indictment.

Time and column space limits do not permit me to explore the dynamics of "so" or "it" or "for" or "one" or "only" or yet another favorite of mine, "...then...." Most readers would look at today's lesson title and immediately conclude that "forgiveness" would be the key word in our study. Please allow me to prove them wrong with a two-letter word.

In this unit, we delineate "bond-

ing agents" for relationships. So far, we have described the role of love and encouragement in building lasting relationships. Forgiveness is a powerful bonding agent. Ask the Amish people who forgave the gunman who came to their school in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania October 2006. Five of their precious children were shot and killed that day. While a whole astonished world looked on, this deeply wounded Amish community showed compassion and forgiveness to this murderer. Love and encouragement and forgiveness have become so rare in our day that they are considered strangers.

Our truth for this week is gleaned from a conversation between Peter and Jesus in Capernaum. Peter began with a question: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered him with one sentence then followed up with a story. Peter's verbal response is not recorded. I believe that is because Peter

was left speechless, ashamed for even asking such a question.

Rabbi rules of the day required two or three episodes of forgiveness. Old Pete thought he was being generous. Like always, Jesus presented a better plan. Basically, Peter should ramp up his calculations and be ready to forgive seventy times seven. Four hundred ninety times???

As Peter stood there in shock, Jesus told him (and all listeners there and then and all readers here and now) a little story. A certain servant owed his

king a debt that was impossible to repay. The money value of his debt was at least ten million dollars. Just as he was about to be sold along with his wife, his children and all his property, this servant begged for mercy and an extension of time in which to repay his debt. This king felt compassion for the man, forgave the entire debt, declaring it to be paid in full. Now, that is forgiveness.

Great story, but that was not the end

of Peter's lesson on forgiveness. This very same slave who had just been forgiven an unpayable debt went and found a fellow slave who owed him one hundred denarii. One denarius was equal to one day's wage. Chump change. He demanded to be repaid immediately. He even put his hands on the man's throat threatening to choke him. Showing no mercy, he threw his debtor into prison until the debt was paid. Now, that is NOT forgiveness.

Fellow slaves reported this to the king. His next phone call was to his recently forgiven slave. The king declared him a wicked servant. He was forgiven because he entreated the king and received compassion. "You should have also had mercy on the one who was indebted to you (here it is...wait for it...the other big little word) AS (in the same way, method, manner, fullness) I previously had mercy on you." His original debt was put right back on the books.

How can we expect to maintain relationships if we are unmoved and unwilling to forgive? Well, we can't. Stick with love. Stick with encouragement. Stick with forgiveness. Forgive AS you have been forgiven.

Brown is staff evangelist, First Church, Richland.

## MOORE

cont. from p.2

happened in our first birth. We need a new birth altogether.

For the church, this is going to mean both conviction

and wisdom. Our transgender neighbors experience real suffering, and we should suffer with them. The answers offered by the culture and the Sexual Revolution/Industrial Complex can't relieve that suffering. We should stand for God's good de-

sign, including what Jesus says has been true "from the beginning" that we are created male and female, not as self-willed designations but as part of God's creative act (Mark 10:6).

In so doing, what every previous civilization would have

seen as obvious — that maleness and femaleness are part of our biological design — will be seen as out of kilter with the culture.

So be it. We will stand with conviction, even as we offer mercy. We've been called to

keep in step with the Spirit, even if we can't always keep up with the Kardashians.

Biloxi native Moore is president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville.

## Just for the Record



**PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, TIPPAAH COUNTY**, recognized its seniors on Senior Day. Shown are Alexa Glissen, Ivy Johnson, and Georgia Kate Conner.

### In other Church News:

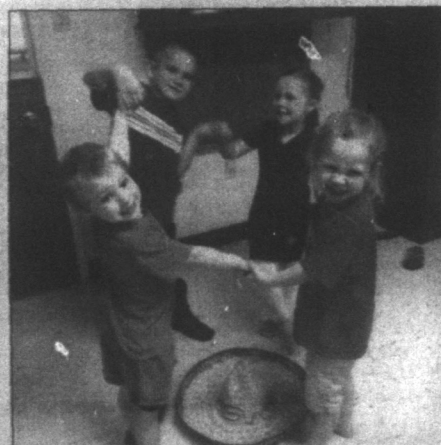
► The LeFevre Quartet will be in concert May 14 at Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, at 7 p.m. Love offering.



**SLAYDEN CHURCH, MARSHALL**, held its Easter service Apr. 19. Rusty Fair, pastor.



Joyce Tait retired from the music ministry at **HEBRON CHURCH, YAZOO ASSOCIATION**, after 70 years of service.



The Mission Friends of **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY**, learned the Mexican hat dance during their study of the Park family in Mexico. Shown are Michael Safcak, Jasmine McKenzie, Tiffany Hall and Ethan McKenzie.



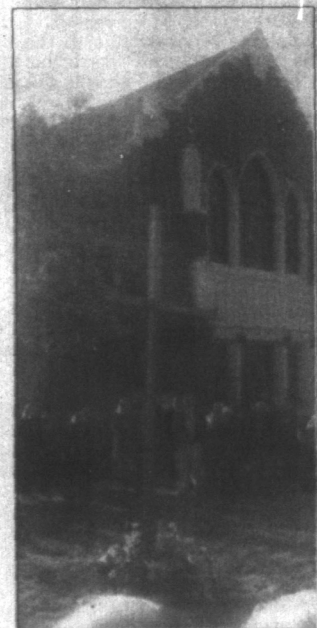
**PULASKI CHURCH, PULASKI**, celebrated Mickey Walls' 25th anniversary as pastor. He is shown receiving an appreciation plaque from Buddy Ellis.



The children of **CALVARY CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO**, participated in an Easter party. Hal Hatten, pastor.



A group of ladies from **SCOTLAND CHURCH, WINONA**, recently attended a women's conference at West Helena Church in Arkansas. Shown are Becky Ables, Tabbie Williams, Kristen Holifield, and Kathy Noah.



**FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA**, held an Easter Sunrise service at 7:30 a.m. Easter morning on the front lawn of the church.



Children from **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, presented a handprint card to pastor Bob Mack and his wife Barbara on his last day preaching at the church.



**TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, LAUREL**, held a Palm Sunday service featuring songs and palm branches.

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